

AN IMPARTIAL
SURVEY
OF
Mr. De Foe's Singular
Modesty and Veracity,
In Presuming to Dedicate his
Experiment
TO THE
QUEEN
Wherein his
Charity, Moderation and Shortest-way
WITH ALL
Episcopal Church-men,
And in particular the
CLERGY,
Is in various Instances Exemplify'd.
To which are added,
Some **QUERIES** recommended
to the Consideration of all Unprejudiced
DISSENTERS, as well as CHURCH-MEN.

Printed for J. Morphew, near Stationers-Hall,
1716.



The INTRODUCTION.

TIS Matter of Admiration, that neither the Purity of our Religion, of which Her Majesty is a zealous Professor, nor the Respect all pretend to pay to Her, can shelter the Establish'd Church from the virulent Tongues and Pens of its Opposers. It has always been the Practice of those who would beat down or undermine Religion, to endeavour all they can to blacken and reproach the Ministers of it. We need not look far for Proof of this; almost every Day produces fresh Instances. There are a Set of mercenary Scriblers, who seem to be kept in constant Pay to carry on this Black Design: And tho' the Foulness of their Language, and the apparent Falshood of most of their Assertions, do sufficiently arm all considering unbiass'd Persons against the Infection; yet, lest any unwary People should be misled by these Men, we have taken some pains to give a Specimen of their Truth and Charity.

The Pamphlet from which these Hints are chiefly taken, is stil'd, *The Experiment*, &c. a Piece so full of Malice and Falshood, that we need not tell the World *De Foe* was the Author of it: For tho' many make it their Business to vilify the Clergy, yet we hope few are arriv'd to that Pitch of Wickedness, as to advance so many malicious Falshoods; and when they are detected, to glory in it, as the said Author does, 'tis not to be thought that any thing here said, should make him blush, who seems past all sense Shame: But we hope it will answer another good End, viz. That from hence we shall learn to pay a due Respect to the Clergy, for their Office-sake. 'Tis a good Sign how necessary and useful they are towards the Support of our Religion, since the Enemies of it pursue them with

such unwearied Malice. We have some good hope, that this has already been the Consequence of the reproachful Language of our Enemies, because we find all good Church-men pay a particular Respect, and listen with most diligent Attention, to those who have been so barbarously treated: And this so generally prevails, that we think it almost necessary to subjoin a Caution, lest any honest hearted People should be impos'd upon by a new Artifice of our Adversaries; for they are no less crafty than malicious, being conscious that what they say, is contrary to Truth; and sensible that the Generality so take it, do now endeavour to render some Right Reverend Persons suspected, by speaking in their Commendation: But we hope we shall not be thus impos'd on, seeing we are not ignorant of their Devices, but shall steadily continue in all dutiful Subjection to all our Superiors, and not lessen our Esteem of them, for any thing these Scriblers say, either for or against them. Let us study to be quiet, and mind our own Business, Praying always to God, who is *the only Ruler of Princes*, that he would bless and preserve our most Religious and Gracious *Queen Anne*; and so prosper the Consultations of the High Court of Parliament *now assembled under Her*, that the Course of this World may be so peaceably order'd, that God's Church may joyfully serve him in all Godly Quietness: And in all Duty and Loyalty the Queen, knowing *whose Minister she is, and whose Authority she hath*, that all Bishops and Pastors may diligently preach God's Holy Word, constantly speak the Truth, boldly rebuke Vice, and patiently suffer for Truth's Sake whenever they shall be called to it: That the Church being always preserv'd from false Apostles, may be order'd and guided by faithful and true Pastors, and the People may obediently follow their Directions.

An Impartial SURVEY, &c.

GENTLEMEN,

WE conclude you cannot be ignorant of that Narrative which was wrote by Mr. De Foe, (A. D. 1705.) entituled, viz.

The EXPERIMENT, or the Shortest Way with the Dissenters Exemplify'd. Being the Case of Mr. Abraham Gill, a Dissenting Minister in the Isle of Ely, and a full Account of his being sent for a Soldier, by Mr. Fern, (an Ecclesiastical Justice of Peace) and other Conspirators. To the Eternal Honour of the Temper and Moderation of High Church Principles. Humbly Dedicated to the Queen.

The Design of this Piece, is openly and barefacedly to traduce the Church and Clergy; which he had done more covertly in his former, and on which he so highly values himself, viz. *His Shortest Way*. Indeed he hath as much reason to boast of this, wherein the same Genius is no less conspicuous: For how surprizingly does he exert himself, to warm and irritate the Moderate? And what subtle Artifices and sly Insinuations does he not here make use of, to rouse and inflame their Resentments against that silly Passive Race of Men, he's pleas'd to mark out by the Name of High-flyers? And moreover to anticipate the Opinion of his Readers, and effectually to captivate their Judgments, does not he usher this Narrative into the World, not only with a most ostentatious Dedication to Her Majesty, but also with a most artful and assuming Introduction? And as a Sample of either, we will here transcribe some Paragraphs. And first, Mr. De Foe in his Dedication, thus addresses himself to the Queen, viz.

M A D A M,

MADAM,

N. B. Tho' Mr. De Foe has the Assurance thus to Dedicate this Narrative (to say nothing now of his Modesty) we are confident he was more crafty than to present it to the Queen, which in short he ought in justice to have done, because he presumes (and with an unparallel'd Arrogance) to usher it into the World under the Sanction of the Royal Patronage.

THis Dedication is not so much a Compliment to your Person, as an Appeal to your Justice.

Your Majesty's Protestant Dissenting Subjects lay at your Feet the following Relation, with all Humility appealing to your Royal Judgment, whether both their Toleration is not herein violently invaded, and your Majesty's Honour and sacred Promise at least attempted to be violated, in the illegal arbitrary Methods made use

of to oppress one of their Ministers.

They humbly commit themselves and their Cause to your

* Note, Would the Dissenters be willing that Mr. De Foe should here be taken at his Word.

Majesty's Protection, imploring your Royal Regard * SO FAR, AND NO FARTHER, as every Article advanc'd in their behalf, in this Book, is positively

and exactly conformable to Truth and direct Meaning, being at all times ready to come forth and confront, even in your Royal Presence, all the Allegations to the contrary.

Having thus publickly appeal'd to God and your Majesty, they can no longer doubt either of the Blessing from above, or the Protection and Assistance of your Majesty below.

And next in the Introduction, Mr. De Foe accosts his Readers in these very Words, viz.

See the Introduction, p. 1, 2.

AND because I am going to present the World with a new Devil of London, with a Story so black in all its Parts, so much the Picture of Hell, and so aggravated with inhuman and unchristian Circumstances, that all that read it must blush for their Native Country, to think such unheard-of Villanies

nies could be acted in it: Crimes so abhorr'd by Mankind, that tho' they call themselves of the Church, we shall find all the true Members of the Church, whether Judges, Justices, Bishops, yea, even Goalers themselves, abhorring it: While, I say, I have such a Scene before me, and knowing what sort of People I have to do with, I shall take such an exact care to have every thing that is herein advanc'd so attested with undeniable Evidence, that Impudence it self, not the hellish Actors, not the blindest Advocates, not the Devil himself, shall dare to reply to it.

And as I should not have attempted this Relation, had I not had good and undoubted Testimony of the Truth of every Article, so I write with the greater Assurance, since I can frankly desie the most harden'd Advocate of such a wretched Cause, to confront the least or minutest Circumstance.

Such direct Testimony, such just Authorities, such authentick Proofs of every Article, are before me, that no Man could ever desire to have his Reputation vindicated with more Clearness in the Face of the Sun.

By these Passages alone, Gentlemen, you may plainly see what solemn Obligations Mr. De Foe has laid himself under, not only to his inferior Readers, but even to Majesty it self, to justify the Truth of every Article of this **Experiment**, and to confront — any Man that shall presume to Answer it. But after all, we must acquaint you, that an Answer to it has been publish'd ever since 1707, and that Mr. De Foe, tho' he here lies under, as you see, the strongest Obligations of Honour and Promise, has not yet thought fit to make any Reply to it, nor in the least to vindicate his Narrative from the Aspersions of Falshood and Forgery, which this Answer, with great Reason, seems to charge it with: And now does not Mr. De Foe's profound Silence in this Case, look vastly strange and surprizing, especially if it be consider'd what a wonderful, prompt, and daring Author he would perswade the World to believe him to be? But to put his Dispute in a true Light, we must here set down some of Mr. De Foe's Assertions in his Experiment, or Narrative of

of the Case of *A. Gill*, and then confront them with some Testimonies or Vouchers out of the Answer to it, and leave all indifferent Readers to judge and determine on which side the Truth lies : And first, Mr. *De Foe* assures his Readers (*Experiment*, p. 4.) That,

A Braham Gill, the Subject of the ensuing Tragedy, was a Minister of the Church of England : He was born in Rivington in the County of Lancaster, has his Education partly among the Dissenters, but last of all in the University of Oxford, where he commenc'd Batchelor of Arts of Brazen-Nose College.

From whence Conforming to the Church of England, he entered into Holy Orders, and was admitted by the present Right Reverend Bishop of Chester.

It seems while Mr. Gill was in Lancashire, and before he was entred into Orders, he serv'd my Lord Will——by of Parham, as his Chaplain, Steward, or Attendant.

But then to invalidate this Experiment, and in particular these Assertions of Mr. *De Foe*, the Author of the said Answer produces (among many others) the Proofs or Vouchers following, viz.

A Certificate from Brazen-Nose College in Oxford,
(Answer, p. 23.) viz.

WE whose Names are under-written, do hereby Certify those whom it may concern, That upon a strict Search into the Bursar's Books of Brazen-Nose College in Oxford, wherein the Names of all those Persons enter'd into that College, are written, we do not find any such Person as Abraham Gill to have been enter'd in, or to have been of that College, for above threescore Years last past.

Witness our Hands, { *Jo. Meare, Principal,* } of Brazen-
 { *Tho. Hayes, V. Pr.* } Nose Col-
 { *Rob. Shippen, Fellow,* } lege.
May 4. 1705.

A Letter from the Bishop of Chester (then Dr. N. Stratford) to the Bishop of Norwich, (*Answer*, p. 5.) viz.

MY LORD,

A Braham Gill was not Ordained by me, either Priest or Deacon: I have carefully examin'd my Ordination Register, and find no such Name as Gill there, nor any Name like it.

Besides, there are many things in the forg'd Instrument, that plainly discover the Imposture: As,

1. Notum fecimus for facimus.
2. Festo Trinitatis viz. septimo die mensis Junii 1693;
Whereas Trinity-Sunday, in the Year 1693, fell not on the 7th, but the 1st of June.
3. The Words Milleesimo Sexcentesimo, are written with a double S.
4. Allegientia for Allegiantia.
5. Regi præstend', without Reginæ; whereas Queen Mary was alive in 1693.
6. Ad Sacros-sanct'.
7. Ni. Cestriensis. I never put an (i) after (N) nor (is) at the end of Cestriens; but subscribe my Name thus,
N. Cestriens.
8. The Impression of the Seal is so obscure, that I know not what to make of it; but your Lordship will be assured that it is not mine, if you compare it with that I have here sent you.

I hope your Lordship has secured the Rascal, and will make him a Publick Example.

I am,

Chester, Aug.
19. 1702.

My LORD;
Your Lordship's Affectionate Brother,
and humble Servant,

N. Cestriens.

A Copy of a Letter from the Right Honourable the Lord Willoughby of Parham, sent to Mr. Gill's Patrons at London, by Mr. Aldred, a Dissenting Minister, in the County of Lancaster, (*Answer, p. 24.*) viz.

THis may certify whom it may concern, That Abraham Gill, formerly of Rivington, serv'd me only as Clerk, when I was in Commission of Peace, about 15 Years ago; and whereas I find in a Pamphlet, call'd, *The Experiment, &c.* several things said concerning my self, I declare them to be utterly false, excepting that Passage which relates to some Difference between him and me at parting: For I, for very just Reasons, and particularly for Forging Warrants in my Name, Can'd him, and turn'd him out of my Service; who afterwards did a great many ill things, for which he was chased out of the Country. And that I have had so much Evidence of his running away with a Strumpet, call'd Elizabeth Walmesly, with whom I understand he now cohabits, that I have no reason to doubt of the Truth thereof. And whereas the said Abraham Gill swears, that he hath Free-hold Lands in Rivington, to the Yearly Value of eight or ten Pounds, and hath had the same ever since the time of his Marriage; I am very certain, he neither hath, nor ever had any such Lands; and for that reason do take him to be Perjured. And tho' I commend the Vindication of his Cause, as set down in the Book aforesaid, yet I am sorry that the Credit of the Dissenting Interest should be endanger'd, by keeping such a scandalous Fellow, as I know Gill to be, amongst us; as witness my Hand, the 2d day of November, Anno Dom. 1705.

A Copy of a Letter from the same Hand, sent to London, long before the Experiment was printed, (Answer, p. 24.) viz.

Shaw-Place,
Nov. 18. 1704.

S I R,

THere is one Abraham Gill in your City of London, that hath formerly been a Servant of mine, but since has rambled up and down the Kingdom, and hath appear'd in several Shapes; sometimes acting as an Attorney, other-while a Church of England Preacher, and now they say, he is got among the Dissenters. He hath had a sort of Trial lately at King's-Bench, before my Lord Chief Justice, and hath sent down a sort of Certificate, desiring me to Sign it, in order to justify his Reputation and Character, which I can by no means do, knowing him to be a very scandalous Man.

I desire you to enquire privately into the matter, if any of the Dissenting Party do assist him, or be much concern'd in Vindicating of him. I would by no means do any Hurt, or be a cause of any to be done him; but to advise some not to be led by him; for if his Character were fairly drawn out, which I am unwilling to do, it would be so Foul and Scandalous, that it would be a Stain for any sober Christian, to be a Follower of him, or to appear in his behalf. I only send to you privately, as a Friend, that if you see cause, you may caution your Friends. I hear Mr. Tutchin the Observer, hath made mention of him, in some of his Papers; pray, if you can, let him know, to desist; for none can expect any thing but Shame and Disgrace, that appears in his Defence. ('Tis pity) but I can say no otherwise, without wronging my Judgment. Pray let me have a Line from you, when you have enquir'd a little into the thing. His Lodging is, they say, about Cornhill I would not have you make this Publick, because I would not have his Per-

son hurt, but would advise others not to be hurt by him, which is the only thing I fear. This, with my Service to you, and rest of Friends, concludes,

SIR, Your, &c.

We think these Testimonies are of themselves sufficient to determine this Dispute ; tho, Gentlemen, we must remind you, that this Answer affords abundance more of the same kind. But because Mr. *De Foe* (*Experiment* p. 5.) boasts greatly of an Affidavit of one Mr. *Tod*, a Clergyman ; which Affidavit, he says, was to be seen, with Mr. *Gill*'s pretended Orders, at Mr. *John Skyes*, in *Thames-street*, near *Queen-Hithe* ; therefore we will here briefly hint the Purport of two Affidavits more, viz. The first is an Affidavit of the Widow of the said Mr. *Tod*, (*Answer* p. 11.) which shews that her Husband was dead long before his pretended Affidavit came to Light, and exhibited to publick View by Mr. *John Skye*.

The other is an Affidavit (*Answer* p. 7.) of Justice *Kelsale*, which proves (we had almost said beyond Contradiction) that the said Mr. *Tod* never made, as 'tis pretended, that, or any such like Affidavit before him. These Affidavits also discover several other ill Practices of the said *Gill*, too tedious here to relate.

Here, Gentlemen, you see the *Experiment* set as Plaintiff, and the *Answer* as Defendant ; and now to sum up the Evidence, and to examine into the Reputation and Credability of the Witnesses on either side, viz. And first, Mr. *De Foe*, he asserts (indeed) that Mr. *Gill* was a Student, and commenc'd Bachelor of Arts, of *Brazen-Nose-College* in *Oxford*, &c.

But, Note, he produces no manner of Evidence to prove this, which is vastly short of what, he but just before promis'd, both in his Dedication and Introduction ; and moreover was this Fact, with what ease might he produce a Cloud of *Living-Witnesses*, of uncontest'd Reputation, to prove it ?

And

And next he affirms, That the said Mr. *Gill* was a Minister of the Church of *England*, and Ordain'd by the Bishop of *Chester*, &c. And now to prove this, he shews with great Ostentation, the pretended Affidavit of a dead Man, viz. of the abovesaid Mr. *Tod*.

N. B. Mr. *De Foe* affirms, that several other young Men were Ordain'd with *A. Gill*, besides the said Mr. *Tod*: Now were this Fact, why should Mr. *De Foe* choose to prove it by an Affidavit of the Dead, rather than of the Living? But the Reason is plain, for has not Justice *Kelsal* shewn, (as above) that Mr. *Tod*'s pretended Affidavit, can be no other than a most gross and palpable Forgery?

And as to Mr. *Gill*'s serving the Lord *W. of Parham*, it plainly appears he was nothing of a Chaplain, &c. But by my Lord's Acknowledgement he was brightly qualified to ingage in any wicked Design; and accordingly to shew what an Arch-Master he was in the Art of Forgery, he trapan'd many ignorant and illiterate Persons, to become Witnesses for the Truth of Mr. *De Foe*'s Experiment, who, as by their own Confessions, (for which vid. *Answer*, p. 21, 22.) set their Names or Marks to justifie what was notoriously False and Scandalous. And also in Experiment, p. 33, 34. one *Holt* and *Willson*, are brought in as Witnesses, and under the Title of Gentlemen, and Inhabitants of the Town of *Downham* in *Norfolk*; whereas they were well known in the said Town, to be only a couple of strolling Beggars that sometimes quarter'd there, and at an Ale-House where Mr. *Gill*'s beloved *Betty Walmsley* sometime Boarded; thus far the Experiment.

And next, as to the Answer of this Experiment, what Evidence can more plainly contradict Mr. *De Foe*'s Assertions, (viz. of Mr. *Gill*'s being a Student in *Oxford*, of his being Ordain'd, &c. and of his serving the Lord *W.* in quality of Chaplain, &c.) than the four Vouchers which we have cited as above, from the Answer; and do not they, and all the rest that the Author has therein collected, appear to come from Persons

sons of indisputable Credit and Reputation (and then alive) in several distant Parts, as *Oxford, Chester, Norfolk, Lancashire, Lincolnshire, Cambridgeshire, &c?* And tho' Mr. *De Foe* has laid himself under the solemnest Obligations (as was before noted) *to come forth and confront, &c.* yet now he does not pretend to say, much less to prove, that any one Voucher, contained in the Answer, is other than Just and Authentick; and also, tho' he is here challenged to his Face to reply, yet, we now see him sheltering himself in Silence, as his only Refuge; which profound Silence of his, surely can be no other, than the real Effect of the badness of his Causes, and a convincing Argument that he well knew, when he first engag'd in't, the Story of *A. Gill*, to be what it really was, * *viz.* a Forgery,

**Query.* Does not the Lord *W---*'s Letter, as above, most plainly evince this?

and contrived on purpose to serve a Party-End? and therefore he resolv'd according to his Dedication and Induction, to supply the defect of Truth and real Merit in this Story, with an inimitable Assurance, thereby, if possible, to impose upon the World, and more effectually to delude the credulous and and unthinking Part of Mankind. And now, Gentlemen, we will leave you and all the impartial World, to judge who are the Aggressors in this Case, whither Mr. *De Foe* or his Antagonists?

But to exemplifie this Author's Moderation, and to give a more clear Idea of his Candor and Veracity towards the Episcopal Clergy, we must resume, a little, the Story of this *A. Gill, &c. viz.*

A. Gill, for the Reasons contained in the abovesaid Lord *W---*'s Letter, being oblig'd to fly his Native Country, he gives his Wife the Go-by, and Travels with his more belov'd *Betty Walmsley* into the Isle of *Ely*, where he personates a poor Episcopal Clergyman, and was thereupon entertain'd as Curate, by the Parson or Rector of *Wellney*; but after his Death, Mr. *James* of *Trinity-College* in *Cambridge*, being presented to the said Living, he, for particular Reasons (for which see the An-

Answer to the **Experiment**) desires a sight of Mr. *Gill's* Orders; who thereupon produces a pretended Copy, with the then Bishop of *Chester's* Name to it, &c. which upon perusing, Mr. *James* saw Cause to suspect them Counterfeit; whereupon he sends 'em to the Bishop of the Diocese, and from thence they were sent to the said Bishop of *Chester*, † who by his Letter (as above) to the Bishop of *Normich*, proves them to be a most palpable and notorious Forgery, for which Mr. *Gill* was order'd to be prosecuted; but by a kind of civil Dungeon, between the Law Common and Ecclesiastick, he had the Fortune to escape with Impunity; which so far encouraged the said *Gill*, that he sets up a Meeting, or rather a Conventicle, in the said Parish: For upon an Examination by the Justices at *Wisbich*, he was found to have no better Right to hold a Meeting, than to officiate in the Church; wherefore the said Justices adjudged him to be within the true meaning and description of the Recruit-Act, viz. *A Person that follow'd no lawful Calling*, &c. (unless Forgery can be accounted such) and therefore they list'd him according to Act of Parliament for a Soldier.

† N. B. Does not this also prove the Orders shown by Mr. *Skey*, to be a second Forgery, the first you see being taken from *Gill*?

But what is surprizing upon this, Mr. *Gill* had the good Fortune to find many Friends, and to rescue him from his Officer; they employ'd a Bailiff to arrest him in an Action for Debt, as Marching thro' *Cambridge*. Thus he was taken from his Officer by force, and prevented serving his Country, and undergoing the same hard Fate, as many an honest poor Man has.

And now this is by a most wonderful Art and Industry, made a Party-Cause; and the listing of Mr. *Gill* is term'd (as is before observ'd) an illegal and arbitrary Act, and a violent invading of the Toleration; and 'tis, moreover, improv'd into a most dreadful High-Flying, High-Church Plot. And three honest Clergymen of the Isle of *Ely*, are particularly singled out to sustain the Party-Resentments, (viz. Mr. *Fern*, Mr. *James*,

James, and *Mr. Laitward*,) and who were now not only persecuted with violent Clamours and Defamations, but also with a most vexatious and chargable Law-Suit: For as *Mr. Gill* was famous for a singular knack in Forgery, &c. ——— so here he had an Opportunity to exert it to the utmost; and to shew he was not idle, a dismal black Charge or Information, in a little time, was contrived and drawn up against the said Clergymen, and forwarded to the *Queen's-Bench, Westminster*; where Council was retained and instructed to back it; and *Captain L——y*, *Mr. John Skey*, &c. they also zealously espouse the said *A. Gill's* Cause; and, moreover, a Collection or publick Party-Purse is made to defray the Expence of this meritorious Law-Suit.

And next, that Candid Author *Mr. De Foe*, he comes in as an Auxiliary, and with his Pen he thunders and proclaims it all the Kingdom over, that this was not only a single Conspiracy against his (pretended) Pious, Pains-taking, Edifying Minister *Mr. A. Gill*; but that all other dissenting Teachers were struck at thro' his sides, and that they must expect his or worse Usage from High-Church, if they did not look about them in time: And moreover this Author, to demonstrate his profound Veneration for the Gown, brands the three Clergymen abovesaid, with the additional and infamous Character of Conspirators.

But notwithstanding this dark and deep-laid Contrivance of these associated Malignants, supported by a Party-Purse, Truth did at last prevail, for it was plainly made appear, that this Plot, about which this Author has made so much Clamour, was a meer Contrivance (we do not say he had a hand in it) compounded of nothing but Falshood and Forgery; and therefore the Information against the said Clergymen was dismiss'd, tho' it was no small Charge and Expence to them, to detect and countermine the secret and malicious Designs of their Adversaries and Prosecutors.

This is only an Epitomy of the Case or Story of *Mr. Abraham Gill*, and we doubt not, that whoever will read the

the Answer to the **Experiment**, will find every thing that we have here asserted, and much more, proved and made out beyond Contradiction. But we must here crave leave to digress a little, to remind the Reader, that this **Experiment** is far from being the only false and scandalous Pamphlet that Mr. *De Foe* has thus audaciously impos'd upon the World, as Witness, his *Legion's Address*, his *New Test of the Church of England's Honesty*, his *Shortest Way with the Dissenters*, &c. — And besides, his *Weekly Reviews*, they of themselves abundantly evince the Truth of this Assertion. And in particular, is it not astonishing to see, what an unbounded Licence he also therein assumes to traduce and scandalize all Orders of the Clergy? and all this not only with Impunity, but Party-Appause. It would be almost endless to trace this Author through his many Falshoods, or even to repeat all the Scandals of this kind, contain'd in these Papers: But, however, we will here briefly hint a few, as a Specimen of the rest, viz.

And, First, (in *Review*, Nov. 1709.) How Scurrilously does he treat the Reverend Bishop of *L—n* about (as he is pleas'd to call it) a Liturgy-Plot, which he pretends was lately discover'd in *Scotland*? which Plot in Fact, is nothing more than this, viz. several People of the Episcopal Perswasion in *Edinburgh*, made a Subscription of 60 or 70 Pounds, more or less, towards the Maintenance of one Mr. *Greenshield*, an Episcopal Clergyman; and tho' he had taken the Oaths to the Civil Government, and officiated but in a private House, yet the Kirk were so incens'd thereat, that to make an Attonement, the said Mr. *Greenshield* is apprehended and confined to a loathsome Prison, and for ought we know for Life, for only serving God according to his Conscience; and if not misinform'd, this is more severe than what is practis'd in like Cases, even in many Popish Countries. * *Note*, Our Author is here

* N. B. Mr. *Greenshield's* Case at large, being just Printed and sold at the *Rose* in *Ludgate street*, we shall therefore refer such Readers to that, for more ample Information, as are neither afraid nor ashamed of Truth and Christianity.

so far from extending his Charity or Compassion to all such as are in *Need, Trouble, Sorrow, or Affliction*, that he insults and triumphs over this poor unfortunate Gentleman, in this miserable and deplorable Condition.

And now, here we must crave leave to appeal to all sorts of Dissenters in *England*, whether this hard Treatment (to say no worse of it) of a Fellow-Subject and a Fellow-Christian, is not directly repugnant, not only to the Laws of Religion, but even the very Laws of Humanity? And is not this reducing the Doctrine of Passive-Obedience to Practice, and exacting of it in the most strictest and strongest Sense that can be?

And again, how False, Scandalous, and Malicious, was that Story of a Reverend Prebendary of *Durham*, publish'd in the *Review* of 15 Jan. 1708? *N. B.* And when its Falshood was most plainly detected and laid open, Mr. *De Foe* was so far from retracting it, that he could not be wrought upon to shew even the least Remorse, for being the Author of so gross and flagrant a Scandal, as in Fact this was upon this honest, innocent and injur'd Gentleman.

And how often has he most invidiously treated the Universities, and the Reverend Dr. *Lancaster*, &c. *vid. Reviews* of 8 May, 1705, Ditto 31; Octob. 26, 1705; June 20, 1706, &c.

But least we tire the Reader's Patience, we will trouble him but with one Instance more of this sort, and that shall be the Case of Mr. *Huffey* and Mr. *Roberts*, (*vid. Review* Feb. 21, 1705.) two Clergymen of or near *Oakhampton* in *Devonshire*. Note, these two Gentlemen were very falsely and maliciously accus'd, and prosecuted by some of *De Foe's* Friends, and therefore no doubt, Men of Moderation, except *Quo ad hoc*, for verily as to Swearing in this Case, they came nothing short even of some modern Puritanical *Queen-Hithe* Affidavit Men; Mr. *De Foe*, according to his singular Veracity, exemplify'd in his *Experiment, Reviews*, &c. gives a dismal black Representation of this Case, on the part of these two Clergy-men, tho', in short, it was really

no other than this, viz. Mr. *De Foe's* Friends they swore (tho' falsely) that Mr. *Hussey* and Mr. *Roberts*, did once upon a time, act as Justices of the Peace, and as such did presume to sign a Warrant for the Lifting or Impressing of a Man. But upon this forsworn Evidence, an Information was grounded and exhibited against them in the *Queen's-Bench, Westminster*; but after all, this pretended Warrant was in Fact no other than a common Certificate, as upon the Day of Trial it was plainly made appear, and to which five or six Men more had set their Names as Witnesses besides, and at the very time with Mr. *Hussey* and Mr. *Roberts*; therefore what Reason can be given, why only these two Clergy-men should be singled out from the rest, and thus persecuted by a chargable and vexatious Law-Suit, and scandalized with an infamous Party-Pen? Surely no other Reason can be given than this, that the rest were *Party-Men*, and therefore Mr. *De Foe's* Friends and Brethren in Iniquity; and no doubt the same Party-Rancour and Malice, which is so visibly predominant, in *Legion's Address*, the *Experiment*, &c. was the sole moving Cause of this flagitious Prosecution.

But however, this false and malicious Accusation, rendred these two honest innocent Gentlemen liable (as we are inform'd) to no less a Penalty than the Forfeiture of 500 l. per Man, in which no doubt they must have been Cast, (for there was no want of false Witnesses) had not Mr. *Hussey* and Mr. *Roberts*, in the very critical Moment, recover'd the original Certificate, which their hard-mouth'd Accusers swore into a Warrant, from a Captain that was then bound for Spain, but by contrary Winds had been detain'd (much to their Advantage) at *Plymouth*; which said Certificate being produced in Court, made it evident beyond Contradiction, that this Accusation was not only False, but Groundless; and also that the said Gentlemen's Accusers were a parcel of Knights of the Post, and manifestly forsworn, tho' (if not misinform'd) they are Pretenders to Reformation; and now upon this, the Information against the said Mr. *Hussey* and Mr. *Roberts* was dis-

N. B. Mr. *De Foe*, according to his peculiar Talent, was very forward to publish to the World, the dark side of this Story, and to reflect upon, and to traduce these two injur'd innocent Gentlemen; but after the Falshood and Knavery of their Prosecutors was detected, he then thought himself not bound to do Justice to Truth, or to retract, because it did not quadrate with the Reputation of that Cause in which he is engaged, tho' if his Writings have any Meaning, he pretends himself a most profound Advocate for Truth and Justice; but how vastly distant are his Practices from either? For has he ever animadverted upon these hard-mouth'd for-sworn Wretches? No, they are of his own Party. Or did he ever make Mr. *Roberts* and Mr. *Hussey* any Compensation for so publicly and so unjustly traducing them in his *Reviews*? No, they were Episcopal Church-men, and therefore as such, were the prime Object of his Resentments, and with whom, he shows he is not bound to keep Faith, or to act by the Rules of common Justice: So that, after all, let Mr. *De Foe's* Pretences be never so specious, 'tis plainly manifest, that Interest and Party, are the only things he contends for.

QUERIES.

WHether after all Mr. *De Foe's* specious Pretences to Truth and Justice, and his clamorous Complaints against the (pretended) arbitrary Methods, made use of in the Listing of *A. Gill*, and which, both in the Dedication and Introduction to his *Experiment*, he most arrogantly boasts he will prove in the Sequel, by *undeniable Evidence*, &c. yet has not the Author of the *ANSWER*, most plainly made it, appear, that the said *Experiment* is a Narrative, most grossly false, and notoriously scandalous?

Whe-

Whether, *The New Test of the Church of England's Loyalty*, or, *The New Test of its Honesty*, *The Dyet of Poland*, *The Shortest Way with the Dissenters*, and even *Legion's Address*, were not wrote by Mr. De Foe, and with the very same pernicious Design, as he here prosecutes in this **Experiment**?

Whether any Man, tho' to serve and promote the Interest of that Cause, of which he is a Well-Wisher, ought in the least to incourage or countenance Mr. De Foe, when he thus basely prostitutes his Pen?

Whether the profound Silence of the Dissenters, and especially of their Teachers, at what Mr. De Foe takes the Freedom to write and say in their Names and Behalfe, and in particular in that ostentatious Dedication and Introduction to his **Experiment**, does not denote their secret Approbation of, and their tacit Consent to, what he thus says and writes?

Whether the vile Reflections cast upon the Clergy-men aforesaid, and their vexatious and unjust Prosecutions, were not to try the *Passive* Temper of the rest, and to find whether they would take notice of, or could resent an Injury that did not directly and immediately affect every one's particular self?

Whether Mr. De Foe does not in fact suggest and maintain the Toleration to be in *imminent Danger*, when (in the Dedication to the **Experiment**) he appeals to Her Majesty's Royal Judgment, and even in the Name of all Protestant Dissenters, Whether their Toleration was not violently invaded, &c. by the (as he words it) illegal and arbitrary Methods made use of to oppress *Abraham Gill*?

Whether at the same time, Mr. De Foe had the least just Cause or Pretence for this sad Complaint
or

or Accusation against the *Wisbich* Justices, or the above-said Clergy-Men?

Whether Mr. *De Foe* is not guilty of a high Crime, &c. — thus to presume to Dedicate his **Experiment**, a Narrative which he must know he calculated purely to serve a malicious, wicked Party-Purpose?

Whether any Age or History, can furnish an Instance of another Author, presuming with the like Assurance, to Dedicate even to his Fellow-Subject, much less to his Sovereign, a Narrative so scurrilous, and so full freighted with false Accusations as is this **Experiment**, against his *Superiors*, both in Church and Civil Government; that is to say, the Administrators of Civil Justice?

Whether, if the Dissenters, and in particular their Ministers, had been treated by Church-men, as both Clergy and Laity were in the Instances above, would not this Author then seem to have just Cause to complain, that the *Toleration* was invaded, or in danger, and to accuse such Gentlemen as he frequently brands with the invidious Names of High-Church, High-flyers, Conspirators, &c?

Whether any Man that has read both sides of this Case, must not turn the Tables, and with the greatest Truth and Reason assert, That Mr. *De Foe* and his Abettors, are the real Conspirators, as the above-said injur'd Gentlemen find too true at their Cost?

Whether *A. Gill's* *Queen-Hith* Friends, &c. ought not in Justice, and in Conscience (if they have any) to reimburse the Charges they unjustly caused the said Gentlemen to expend in a *Passive Self-Defence*?

Whether Forgery, Perjury, Defamation, or such like Practices, can be accounted Lawful Callings?

Whe-

Whether Mr. *De Foe's Abraham Gill* was not actually as much within the literal Meaning and Construction of the Recruit-Act, and as justly and as legally Listed by the *Wishbich* Justices, as any Man that has since that time been Listed by the most precisely conscientious Commissioners?

Whether the Party Clamour, and loud Complaints made by *A. Gill's* Friends against the said Justices, as charging them with making use of *Oppressive, Illegal, and Arbitrary Methods*, &c. — in Listing of him, and then rescuing him when Listed, from his Officer, by a Sham-Arrest, and after that making a Party-Purse, to carry on an unjust Prosecution at *A. Gill's* Suit, against three worthy Clergy-men, and moreover stigmatizing them with the odious and invidious Names of Conspirators, High-flyers, &c. — We say again, whether this Conduct of *A. Gill's* Friends, did not discountenance and obstruct, beyond Comparison, the Execution of the Recruit-Act, more than any thing that was either said or done by the five *Ipswich* Justices, &c. —?

Whether almost innumerable Law-Suits must not ensue, should Actions be brought at the Suit of all those that have been illegally imprison'd, by malicious or mercenary Constables? And what a vast Augmentation would it not make, should Actions be brought, and Matters litigated in favour of all those that have been as justly and as legally Listed as *Abraham Gill*?

Post-

Postscript.

Note. **M**R. De Foe, in several late Reviews, professes to anticipate or predict what will be the result at the Tryal of Dr. Sacheverel; and among his predictions, this is one: He says (Review, Feb. 18. 1709) *In which Case it will necessary follow, that a Trial, peculiarly to the Church of England, will be necessary, (viz.) That it is, The Church Establish'd by Law.*

Whether is not this more than an *Inuendo*? Does he not hereby more than suggest the Church to be in Danger? And do not these insinuations, that the Spirit of Moderation, with which his Majesty's Government, &c. do abound? And this (as we have observ'd) he has the Confidence to put the Issue under Royal Patronage, yet we are of opinion, that Majesty never saw it: And we challenge, even Mr. De Foe, and John Stoy themselves, to prove the contrary, or to justify their Conduct in this Particular.

F I N I S.

ADVERTISEMENTS

The Experiment, or the Shortest Way with the Dissenters Exemplify'd: Being the Case of *Abraham Gill*. Written by Mr. De Foe, and Publish'd by B. Bragg in Pater-noster Row.

And the Answer to the Experiment: Publish'd by John Morphew, Stationer's-Hall.

